Acceptance of James M. Gifford Memorial Hall for Boys
October 31, 1940

My dear Mrs. Gifford, in behalf of the President and Fellows of Middlebury College, we accept with deep gratitude your generous gift to the College of the James M. Gifford Memorial Hall for Boys. By its noble dignity we are reminded of that dignity of character which all who knew Mr. Gifford recognize. The graciousness and hospitality of this building are a symbol of the generous nature of him whose name it bears. Its usefulness to this College now and, we confidently hope through the years to come, is typical of the usefulness to society of our honored Trustee. Its rugged strength, built of this Vermont stone, is emblematic of a strength of character and integrity we all learned to trust. Here is a dignity, graciousness, service and strength, all symbolized in a building of commanding beauty. It is a fitting memorial to a life which exemplified all these virtues, simple but massive, harmonious yet strong.

And to us it symbolizes also the lifelong devotion of a woman to a man. The Taj Mahal at Agra, a building of imperishable beauty, is more than a tribute of a man to a woman. It is the symbol also of the undying affection of a man for a woman. We recognize that though only the name of James M. Gifford adorns this building, nevertheless into its stone and mortar has gone something more, - a lifetime's devotion, to one worthy of that devotion. This gift to the College which Mr. Gifford loved so greatly and served so long, so faithfully and so efficiently, is gratefully accepted, not only for its own sake, but for the sake of him in whose honor it stands and for your sake, Mrs. Gifford, who have so wonderfully preserved his name, along with the great names of the College, - Painter, Starr, McCullough, Mead, Hepburn, and now Gifford. Our appreciation cannot be expressed adequately in words. It is to be done in using this memorial as he and as you would have us. To this end we pledge the College.

Gifford Hall